

A Dylan State of Mind

Dylan stared at his parents with a mixture of hope, anger, and the slightest bit of hatred. I hated them for what they'd put Travis through. I had hope they had a good reason that would satisfy my brother. Otherwise, I didn't care about them anymore.

My anger sparked because they'd ruined my fairy fun day. Maybe Haley would tattoo something on my dad's ass. I smirked knowing she'd tattoo it on their forehead if I asked her to. Maybe I would. Shaving their eyebrows and writing the word deserter on their forehead would be the least they deserved.

My dad stepped forward, "We will explain, but please let's sit." I rolled my eyes, "Travis, you may have to explain this my powers of being mute seem to have struck again."

Travis snarled, "We aren't sitting down. Stand there and tell us like the men we are why you left us." My mom spoke, "Travis, who's the girl behind you? Honey, did you find your mate too?" Travis growled, "DO NOT SPEAK TO HER! Don't even look at her! Do you hear me?"

Jacqueline put her arms around Travis' stomach from behind him. She whispered to him, but we all heard it, "It's ok, Travis. I'm fine." I cut my mom's next statement off, "Enough stalling. Travis and I have both asked you questions. Answer us before I find that rabbit to trick you into falling back down a hole for your sequel."

My dad's face darkened, "You're still the funny man, I see." I smiled, "Despite your best efforts, I am still funny. Everyone loves it. In fact, I know the Princess of the fairies now, Davis. She delights in my humor. I'm half tempted to call her to pull fairy hijinks on your ass. Hell, start talking or I'll ask our Luna. In case you didn't hear yet, she's the Duchess of the fairies."

I turned to my best friend's mate, "Emmaline, you would pull fairy hijinks on them for me, would you not?" Emmaline started to speak. My dad hissed, "You address your Luna by her first name?" I raised an eyebrow, "As did you, yes. Now, you've done it, dear old dad."

Emmaline stepped forward with anger written all over her face. She spat out, "How DARE you! Dylan calls me by my name because I asked him to. He has been nothing but kind to me. My powers might be unstable right now, so I'd suggest you curb your attitude. You know what? NO, as your Luna I DEMAND you speak to your Beta with more respect. Not only is he one of your sons, but his position is also higher ranking

than yours. For someone who wants to admonish him for his lack of respect, you are showing a lot of it yourself.”

I linked my favorite Omega, “Danver, popcorn please. Main room of the house.” Danver replied, “Of course, Beta Dylan.” I asked, “How many times must I tell you over link just call me Dylan.” Danver replied, “Probably every time.” He was a gem.

Shortly popcorn was handed to me. Lucas linked me, “Dylan, are you alright?” I teased, “Must you always try to interrupt my show?” Lucas grinned. I knew what he was trying to do, but I couldn’t let those emotions in right now. I needed to stay steady, as myself. Not just for me, but for my brother. I’d do anything for Travis. If he wanted Jackie protected from our parents, then that’s what would happen. If he wanted me to banish our parents from this pack, then I’d do it. Lucas would allow that if I asked him to.

My mom spoke, “We didn’t mean to be gone so long.” I interrupted, “Hey Travis, they didn’t mean to. Well, I feel so much better now. I’m practically a butterfly I’m so light and airy feeling. Watch out gravity! I’m about to defy you, spread my wings, and fly!”

Everyone in the room laughed, except our parents. I needed to keep Travis’ mood up. My dad admonished me, “It’s a serious moment, Dylan. Can’t you just be serious for once in your life?” I replied, “Since you’re incapable of answering the ONE question Travis and I want the answer to... I’m going to say... Outlook... not so good. Just a warning tomorrow doesn’t look good either on a seriousness scale.”

My mom's lips twitched into a small smile, but I refused to let my heart soften to her. Travis yelled, “OH MY GOD! Just tell us why you have been gone so long or I’m leaving. If I leave, I’ll never speak to the two of you two again. When I have pups, you’ll NEVER be a part of their lives. I’ll do everything in my power to convince Dylan and Lacy to do the same with their pups. Based on Lacy’s general countenance at the moment; I don’t think it would be a hard sell.”

My mom’s face crumbled, “Travis... sweetheart.” I growled, “ENOUGH! Do I need to scrounge up that rabbit? My wolf would be DELIGHTED, you know rabbits are his favorite.” Fang perked up, “Can we, Dylan? Please, please, please? I LOVE RABBITS! I don’t like these people anymore. They left us and our brother. Let’s leave and go hunt rabbits. Rhino is very upset.” Of course, he was. Rhino was my brothers wolf.

My wolf was a lot like me, he loved to have fun. I told him, “Calm down, Fang. I’ll let you hunt rabbits tonight or tomorrow, I promise.” Fang grumbled, “Didn’t mate tell

you to stop promising about tomorrow? Mate is so pretty. She's so mad, but she's still so beautiful." I agreed, "I know she is."

Fang got quiet but I knew he was listening. He loved my parents and their wolves too once upon a time. He'd felt so hurt when we realized they weren't coming home. Both he and I thought they'd come back for Travis' first shift, but they disappointed us yet again. I was certain that was the day I hated them the most. Travis put off shifting for hours. He was screaming in pain, but just knew they were coming. They broke mine, Fang, and Travis' heart that day. There was no coming back from that.

My dad said, "We really did intend just to go on vacation. At the end of our trip, we came across some texts. On a whim, we decided to go to Italy." Texts? No way. They were not on about the Legend of the White Wolf again.

Fang snarled in my mind, "I'll RIP THEIR THROATS OUT DYLAN! THEY HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR THAT LEGEND!" I gritted my teeth. My parents were obsessed with that particular legend ever since they'd heard it once when Travis was three. How they'd gone that long without hearing it, I'll never know. Teenagers told that legend at bonfires all the time.

I growled at them, "TELL ME you didn't abandon your children, one of whom was only fourteen years old, over the goddamn LEGEND of THE WHITE WOLF! TELL ME YOU DIDN'T!" Fang's voice intertwined with mine.

My dad stepped in front of my mother. Everyone knew Fang was stronger than his wolf. I could take my dad AND my mom if I wanted to. Travis' broken voice caused me to stop and look over at him. "No... no. Tell Dylan that's not it! You didn't miss out on my high school years because of some stupid legend." They didn't reply quickly enough.

Travis wiped a tear that had fallen, "You missed my first shift! I just knew you'd come back for it. I put off shifting as long as possible. I pleaded with my wolf because I was adamant that you'd show up. It was agonizing! Dylan had to coach me through it. He and Lucas had to send Gamma Alex to a meeting because Lacy wanted Lucas at her shift. I had to have Dylan there because he's all I had."

My dad spoke, "Dylan, you didn't go to a meeting because your brother was shifting?" Lucas growled, "Watch yourself, Davis." Dale sighed. I proudly answered my dad, "Damn straight I missed the meeting. Travis had no one but me. Even if my mentor, that I got because you ABANDONED me right when I took over as Beta, had not advised me to take care of Travis; I would have. Did you want him to shift alone? That's dangerous!"

My mom put a hand on my dad's chest assuring us, "Of course not. I am so proud of you, sweetie. You took care of your brother just like I knew you would. Travis, honey, what color is your wolf?" Travis growled and his eyes flickered black, taking even me by surprise.

Jackie rushed in front of him and jumped on him. She wrapped her arms around his neck whispering to him. She was the only thing keeping him from shifting and attacking my parents at this moment.

I commented casually, "Unlike Fang, Travis' wolf never met yours. His wolf feels abandoned by you two. He doesn't like you at all, and that's probably a tame way of putting how he feels. Rhino is a fierce warrior. You know wolves have access to our memories once they join us. Rhino hates you. So, let's get back to the part where you tell us you didn't abandon us over some dumb legend." They continued to stare without saying anything.

I dramatically gestured to myself, "I, for one, need you to say it's not true. Even though I feel it deep down in my little pinky toe, you're about to say some stupid shit about how it's about the white wolf. So go on, tell me you abandoned your two pups over some dumb legend. It will make you feel better." Lucas frowned. Emmaline was clearly linking him. She probably didn't know the legend.

My dad cleared his throat, "We did help search for Lacy once she ran away." I laughed humorlessly, "Yes, let's ignore for just ONE, and I do mean one, moment that she ran away two years after you left. Let's all ignore that and sit in a forgiveness circle. We will even join hands and sing kumbaya because you looked for Lacy. Now, something comes to mind about what a bang up job you did finding her because.... where did we find her again Lucas?"

Lucas answered, "Ireland." I clapped my hands, "Ahh yes, the fighting Irish. Now... where is Ireland again... somewhere.... It's on the tip of my tongue." Travis supplied, "It's in Europe." I clapped my hands, "Yes. Europe! Good job, little brother. It must have been all the geography homework we worked on together. And you said you'd never use that in real life. Well look at you our shining little geography pupil. I told you it would come in handy one day. Now, look at that big brother was right. Now Europe... That's where you two were. Lacy was there for six months and you two bloodhounds had NO CLUE! Really high five you guys, job well done. You were on the same continent and had no clue. So, the reason you left two years prior to Lacy was because...." I trailed off.

My dad sighed, “We found some ancient texts. We had to do more research on the white wolf.” I growled, “There it is! He has seen the light of day Lucas, and his soul is purged. Did you hear the hallelujah chorus, dear old dad?”

My dad growled so I let Fang growl back. My dad cowered away explaining, “You know we didn’t hear about the legend until after Travis was born. Your mother had her tubes tied so we couldn’t have another pup. We were too afraid it would be a girl.”

I looked at Travis, “There you have it, the reason we have to be grateful our parents didn’t abandon us with a younger sibling to care for is because they are superstitious weirdos. I guess that’s the one good thing about this whole fiasco. We didn’t have to put a sibling who was younger than fourteen through this wondrous feeling of emotions. So... there's a bright side?”

Travis asked, “What are you even talking about? Why is some stupid white wolf legend worth you missing out on such big moments in my life when I NEEDED you? Dylan needed you!” I interjected, “Umm excuse me, Dylan was just fine. I mean who the heck needs help with becoming a Beta and raising a teenager?” Their silence was beginning to annoy me on a deep level.

I continued, “I felt such sympathy for those humans who had a surprise kid pop up in their life. I understood them at that moment. I watched A LOT of tv shows and movies to help me understand the path I should take. Dylan was just fine. I was missing the swell of happy music and the girl, but we made it through.” My dad glared at me, and I glared right back.

My mom put her hand on my dad again, to calm him. She whispered, “This is not how we expected this to go. Travis, the white wolf is born to a Beta blood line.” I cut her off, “Now, now mother. If you are going to tell the story, you must tell it right.” Because Travis already knew the legend. He’d heard it in high school. Like the rest of us normal people.

I turned to my brother, “Travis, the story begins with the word ALLEGEDLY or once upon a time because no wolf has ever been a pure white wolf. Ever. There’s no recorded pack with one, it’s just some silly story told around fire camps that our parents abandoned us for. I don’t know about you, but I feel so much better about them disappearing for four years.” I didn’t bother to hide my sarcasm.

Travis gaped, “You can’t be serious.” My mom said, “No, we found a wealth of information about it. We met so many people that gave us more pieces to the puzzle. It took time to track them all down. We wanted to be able to best protect our grandpups.” She trailed off.

Fang growled, "I don't like where this is going." Him and me both. My mom added, "Or help you see that having pups wasn't in the cards..." I roared, cutting her off. I let Fang take over, "YOU MEAN TO HARM MY PUP? YOUR GRANDPUP? I WILL KILL YOU!"

Lacy grabbed my arm. I took back over from Fan when Lucas stood in front of me. Emmaline spoke quietly, "I'm sure that's not what they meant." My mom was shaking. She cried, "No, of course not! I's just... do you know what you are having yet?"

I growled, "I do, but I will NOT tell you what we are having. Just so you know, Lacy and I plan to have a litter of pups." My mom's eyes filled with tears, "You don't understand! The white wolf is always mated with an Alpha wolf."

I rolled my eyes, "Again forgetting that word allegedly in your story, Betty. Also, do you even know who is on our border? God Alpha Prick is going to pop out a PLETHORA of pups. Don't ya just know his pup would ABSOLUTELY be mated to a legend? He's a prick like that. Too bad for him, IT IS A LEGEND!"

My dad growled at me so I flipped him off. My mother winced, "The white wolf, she's powerful. Everyone wants her for her powers, not just wolves; every supernatural group." Of course, the wolf was powerful, it was a damn legend. Fang paced furiously in my head.

I dramatically stated, "Yes, but now we have partial fairies in the pack. People want them too. We protect them because IT'S WHAT YOU DO FOR THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE! Should a legend appear, we will be just fine. Then I'll have to scour the earth for all the other legends and lore. I'll find them before GAP, I will."

My mom's voice shook, "You don't understand, just let me tell you what we've found." My hands curled into fists. I gritted out, "Fine." I linked Lucas, "I will link you my snark." Lucas replied, "That's fine. Also, you do that every day." True.

My mom began, "As I said, the white wolf is always female and born from the Beta line. She is coveted so much that she isn't safe until she meets her mate. Her mate is always an Alpha. She has to be marked by him, but even then people come for her. She is immune to silver and wolfsbane."

I linked Lucas, "Sure, special wolf with no vulnerabilities. Why not? It makes for a great... what's that word... ahh yes, LEGEND!" Lucas agreed with me. I could tell.

My mom continued, “She can always heal her mate wolf if he’s been injured. Once trained she can heal those related to her and members of her pack. Untrained, she could manage her mate and one other wolf, probably. She puts off a powerful aura that draws those to her. They want her for her power. The stories of what have happened to those poor girls haunt me.” Legends are sometimes haunting. I glared at her.

She shook herself, “Their mates haven’t always been strong enough to protect them.” I linked Lucas, “Alpha wolves are known to be weak, so sure. There’s no hole in that story. Why would the moon goddess gift a weak Alpha a legendary wolf? Makes sense. I’m tracking with this research.” Lucas bit his lip.

My mom’s tale continued, “The white wolves have been taken and turned into breeding machines. Many of the white wolves are killed because they don’t produce another white wolf. We found texts that say they would produce weaker wolves with others, but only the strongest pups with their mates. It’s the goddesses’ punishment for greedy wolves trying to harm the white wolf. They are an extension of the goddess after all. The white wolf can cause any wolf besides an Alpha to bow to them. If trained, they are excellent fighters. There are many other things they can do, but don’t you see? Aren’t you worried about your future pups?” I stared at her unblinking for several minutes.

I linked Lucas, “Are they serious?” Lucas replied, “Emmaline said their souls is emitting fear and they are genuine in their concern.” Well, then. Enter snarky Dylan. I spoke out loud, “Of course I’m scared. That’s not my top fear though. Lacy and I have spent nights agonizing over our little pup turning into the wolf that blows the little piggies house down. Then of course there’s the wile e coyote fear of mine. What if they chase some little bird around only to be outsmarted?”

I shivered in mock horror, “My pup can’t be the butt of a joke. I make the jokes around here, and plan to pass that mantle to them. Then of course the fear of our pup turning into the loch ness monster. We have a lake right outside and everything. Lacy keeps saying we’d just call the pup Nessie. My silly mate, I had to tell her that’s no good because Twilight already had that nickname.” My dad was glowering at me.

I smiled telling them, “The top fear is OF COURSE somehow our pup turning into Bigfoot. Don’t worry, we are seeking counseling for these fears. Our poor therapist, now we have to add this to the list Lacy. Our pup could be a super powerful, blessed by the goddess wolf! You know what....? On second thought... I’m going back to original GAP thoughts. THIS would grant me my wish. My daughter WOULD be one of GAP’s pup’s mates. OH, GODDESS LET THE LEGEND THAT HAS NEVER

BEEN RECORDED AS FACT BE REAL! PLEASE, OH PLEASE, OH PLEASE MOON GODDESS!”

Lucas couldn't stop his laugh and Travis was right there with him. My dad yelled, “Can't you ever take ANYTHING seriously?” I glared at him, “Yes. I took all of Travis' parent teacher conferences seriously. Every parent night, play, basketball, baseball, and soccer game. I NEVER missed one.”

My dad was stunned, “You were in a play, Travis?” I answered, “Theatre was a required course for freshmen. Travis was in three plays. I saw them both on opening night, and every other single night they performed. My happy little ass watched Anne of Green Gables, Cinderella, and Robin Hood, because the drama teacher had a sense of humor making werewolves play foxes and other various animals, more times than you can count. Travis was revolutionary in his role as Gilbert Blythe.”

My mom gasped. I smiled, “I know... I too was stunned he had the lead, but he was captivating. It was a devastating blow when he was simply the goose that turned into the coachman in Cinderella. I consoled him every night over the drop from lead to goose. I coached him through his first shift, I assigned our toughest warriors to coach him to be the warrior he wanted to be. I trained with him myself, with Lucas and Dale's help. He's on track to win the fight to be our Lead warrior when he graduates.”

I squared up to my dad growling, “I will be DAMNED if you use some legend as a scare tactic to convince him not to have pups. Betty, you stay the away from Lacy with this shit.” Lacy snorted, “Lacy has Alpha blood, and is not scared of the white wolf legend.”

I kissed her. I pulled back asking, “Is it any wonder I love you so?” Travis stated, “Stay away from me and Jackie. You're so scared of the white wolf legend, then I'll help you. Stay away from my family when I have one.”

My mom cried, “No please, we know how to help! We spent all this time learning how to protect them if you end up having a girl.” Lucas spoke, “When do people become drawn to the white wolf from your research? It would have to be when she turned sixteen and gained a wolf, right?”

I frowned, “Don't feed the crazy Lucas, they will only dive deeper.” My dad answered, “No, not necessarily. They will be drawn to her before she shifts, but more so afterwards.”

Lucas pointed out, “Then we would know when they shifted, that we had the first white wolf in history in the pack. We could protect them.” I interjected, “Or in the

land of the not crazy people, they wouldn't be white wolves because there are NO pure white wolves literally in the history of any pack EVER. We'd protect them because they are my pups. I will protect all my pups no matter their gender, OR COLOR, and I will NEVER abandon them as you did yours." They didn't even look sorry.

I growled, "Get out of my sight before I let Fang RIP YOU TWO TO PIECES! I always knew your excuse wouldn't be worth it, but I thought you had a better one than 'oh this scary legend made me do it.' Do me a favor and NEVER watch a Friday the Thirteenth movie, or you'll be opposed to summer camps! MORONS!"

I stormed outside shifting into Fang. I could smell that Lacy was behind me. I linked Travis, "Are you ok?" Travis answered, "I'm behind you with Jackie, I'm going to run her home." I teased, "Can I just say I love this nickname Jackie. Jacqueline is so much more time consuming to say."

Travis laughed, "You would." I said, "As stated earlier, I will hereby now and henceforth call her Jackie. It is decreed." Travis laughed again, "Thanks for the laugh. She likes being called Jackie so it's all good bro."

I shifted back after several miles. Lacy did too. She kissed me hard on the mouth. I smiled, "I know that kiss. There is sexy naked time in Dylan's very near future." Lacy smirked, "You know me so well." Yes, I did. Fang purred, "Mate is so sexy." He was not wrong. I was going to enjoy this and forget the two people who birthed me.